

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Equipment for treating open- beverage containers (3), for instance filling or sealing them, comprising a treatment site (1) being fed a container (3) for purposes of treatment and being fitted with a treatment implement (2) acting from above on the mouth (6) of the container (3), further comprising slot nozzles (4) which are configured laterally of the treatment site (2) and which blow off a clean gas- and are arrayed in a manner to generate a gas curtain protecting the mouth (6) of the container (3),
~~characterized~~
~~in that~~wherein the slot nozzles (4) are configured in substantially mutually opposite air jet directions in such manner that a rammed flow is generated between the slot nozzles (4) comprising, relative to the plane of symmetry (S), upward and downward flow components— that issue from the region of the slot nozzles (4), the mouths (6) of the containers (3) in the treatment position being configured in one of the flow components, the slot nozzles (4) being configured to communicate at least upward or downward with the free atmosphere.

2. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~

~~thatwherein~~ the plane of symmetry (S) running through the center of the nozzles is configured below the mouth (6) of the container (3) situated in the treatment position.

3. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ ~~thatwherein~~ the slot nozzles (4) are configured omnidirectionally in the free atmosphere.

4. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ ~~that~~ ~~itwherein~~ the equipment comprises several treatment sites (1) configured in a row and two slot nozzles (4) running parallel to said row.

5. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in~~ ~~thatwherein~~ the slot nozzles (4) are configured in mutually displaceable manner in the direction of said row.

6. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ ~~that~~ ~~itwherein~~ the equipment comprises a clean gas room (8) wherein the containers (3) may be fed to and evacuated from one or more treatment sites, these treatment sites (1) being configured together with the treatment implements (2) outside the clean gas room (8) in front of at least one aperture (9) which comprises the slot nozzles (4) at its edge and which is part of the clean gas room (8).

7. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ ~~thatwherein~~ the slot nozzles (4) point obliquely upward or downward.

8. (Currently Amended) Equipment as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
~~itwherein the equipment~~ comprises screening walls (12) laterally enclosing the
treatment site at each slot nozzle (4).